

YUGOSLAVIA: Serbs Crack Down in Kosovo

Serbia is exploiting incidents in Kosovo last week to extend control over its predominantly Albanian autonomous province. It has replaced the province's Interior Minister and purged police officials in several Kosovo towns. The moves were tied to violence by ethnic Albanians in which several Serbs were injured; allegations that several hundred Albanian schoolchildren had been poisoned precipitated the incident. Federal and Army spokesman have called the charges a hoax by ethnic Albanian extremists bent on raising tensions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Serbia is using the incident to undermine sympathy for the Albanian cause and to reimpose restrictions it had eased under pressure from other republics. The federal government has not opposed the new moves, and even Slovene leaders usually sympathetic to the Albanians have remained silent. The increased Serbian control almost certainly will lead to fresh outbursts of Albanian unrest in coming months. [REDACTED]